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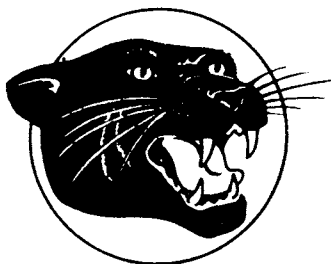
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Panther Sports News

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May 16, 1984

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Larry Thoennissen (Morton), sophomore weightman for Eastern Illinois University's track team, was the Panthers leading scorer this spring.

Thoennissen led the team with 81 points finishing third in the Mid-Continent championship in both the hammer (165-0) and the shot put (53-3 3/4).

That shot put distance was his personal best while his personal record in the hammer was 173-11. He also threw the discus reaching 154-3 this spring.

"Larry was Mr. Versatile for us," said coach Neil Moore. "He was steady in all three of those events and was most improved in the shot going from 47-11 last year to the 53-3 3/4, and that distance couldn't have come at a better time than it did in the conference meet.

"He also was up over seven feet in the hammer and four in the discus so he showed a lot of improvement thanks to hard work in the weight room and preseason training. Bob Carper (EIU's volunteer weight coach) coordinated our weight program and played a role in the success our throwers had.

"It's ironic in Larry's case because he came here primarily as a discus man but now he likes the hammer best, and really has improved quite a bit in the shot put. We need to work next year on getting that discus back up there," Moore said.

Although he didn't win any events this year, his top finishes were a second in the discus (143-2) in a triangular with Arkansas State and Mississippi State, a second in the hammer (165-11) at the SEmotion Relays and seconds in both the discus (154-3) and hammer (164-2) at the EIU Relays.